

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A presence attribute information server comprising:
a processor;
an interface unit, coupled to the processor, including a network interface for
5 receiving and transmitting user presence attribute information; and
a storage unit, coupled to the interface unit and the processor, including
presence attribute information and associated access authorization information
organized and arranged as one or more entries in a data structure;
wherein said access authorization entries are each associated with
10 corresponding presence attribute information entries, each presence attribute
information entry having a presence attribute value field, corresponding to one or
more types of presence attributes, and each access authorization information entry
having a user field identifying one or more users and one or more access condition
entries, wherein the access condition entries define the conditions when the
15 corresponding presence attribute information is available to the corresponding
identified users.
2. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 1 wherein at
least one of the one or more access condition entries includes a predetermined period
20 of time to be matched.
3. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 2 wherein
the predetermined period of time includes a time of day.
- 25 4. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 2 wherein
the predetermined period of time includes a day of the week.
5. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 2 wherein a
predetermined period of time includes a point in time identifying the beginning of the
predetermined period and a point in time identifying the end of the predetermined
30 period.

6. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more access condition entries includes a proximity relative to a predetermined location.

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7. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 6 wherein the predetermined location includes a specific place.

8. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 6 wherein
10 the predetermined location is the present position of at least one of another item or person.

9. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 6 wherein the proximity corresponds to a predetermined distance.

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10. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 6 wherein the location is relative to the at least one of item or person associated with the presence information.

20 11. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 6 wherein the location is relative to the user requesting the presence information.

12. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 1 wherein the access condition entries include a flag which, when an access condition is met,
25 identifies whether access to the associated presence information is authorized or precluded.

13. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 1 further comprising an access validation unit, coupled to the interface unit and the storage
30 unit, the access validation unit being adapted for
receiving a request for presence attribute information,

receiving one or more of status information of the user requesting the information, the status information of the at least one of item or person associated with the presence information, and the current time and date,

comparing the same to the one or more corresponding access authorization
5 entries, and

authorizing access to the presence information, if the appropriate access conditions have been met.

14. A presence attribute information server in accordance with claim 13 wherein
10 the access validation unit includes a set of prestored instructions for execution by the processor.

15. A presence attribute information manager application comprising:
a processor;
15 an interface unit, coupled to the processor, including a data input device for receiving user attribute information from the user and a network interface for transmitting user presence attribute information;

a storage unit, coupled to the interface unit and the processor, including presence attribute information and associated access authorization information
20 organized and arranged as one or more entries in a data structure;

wherein said access authorization entries are each associated with corresponding presence attribute information entries, each presence attribute information entry having a presence attribute value field, corresponding to one or more types of presence attributes, and each access authorization information entry
25 having a user field identifying one or more users and one or more access condition entries, wherein the access condition entries define the conditions when the corresponding presence attribute information is available to the corresponding identified users.

30 16. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with claim 15 wherein said interface unit is further adapted for receiving access conditions

associated with one or more users, which are used to formulate access authorization entries.

17. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
5 claim 15 wherein said interface unit further includes a data output device for
presenting conditions associated with authorizing access in an iconic format.

18. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
claim 17 wherein said data input device is further adapted for modifying the
10 conditions being presented by the data output device associated with authorizing
access to presence attribute information associated with one or more users.

19. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
claim 15 further comprising a broadcast unit, coupled to the interface unit and the
15 storage unit, the broadcast unit being adapted to transmit updated user presence
attribute information to at least one of a presence attribute information server and
subscribed users, that are currently authorized to receive updates, when the presence
information changes.

20. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
claim 19 wherein the broadcast unit includes a set of prestored instructions for
20 execution by the processor.

21. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
25 claim 15 wherein the presence attribute information manager application is
incorporated as part of a portable electronic device.

22. A presence attribute information manager application in accordance with
claim 21 wherein the portable electronic device is a wireless radio frequency
30 telephone.

23. A method for managing the access to presence attribute information comprising:

receiving a request for presence information;

identifying the user requesting the presence information;

5 determining whether the user requesting the information is authorized to have access to the requested presence information including

receiving any conditions relative to the requesting user associated with

receiving access to the information, and

determining whether the received conditions associated with receiving

10 access have been met;

wherein, if the user has met the conditions associated with receiving access, then forwarding the presence information to the requesting user.